

# House File 2293 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2293

BY HANSON

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school district transportation costs by  
2 establishing a transportation equity program, modifying  
3 provisions relating to transportation assistance aid  
4 provided by the school budget review committee, and making  
5 appropriations.  
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1. NEW SECTION.   **257.16C   Transportation equity**  
2 **program — fund.**

3     1. A transportation equity program is established to  
4 provide additional funding for school districts with a  
5 transportation cost per pupil that exceeds the statewide  
6 minimum transportation cost per pupil for the same budget year.

7     2. *a.* For the budget year beginning July 1, 2016, and  
8 each succeeding budget year, the department of management  
9 shall annually determine a statewide adjusted transportation  
10 cost per pupil that is not lower than the statewide minimum  
11 transportation cost per pupil. The statewide adjusted  
12 transportation cost per pupil shall be annually determined,  
13 by taking into account amounts appropriated under subsection  
14 3, for the purpose of providing transportation equity aid for  
15 those school districts with the highest transportation cost per  
16 pupil differential.

17     *b.* Each school district that satisfies the criteria of  
18 subsection 1 shall receive transportation equity aid in an  
19 amount equal to the school district's actual enrollment for  
20 the school year, excluding the shared-time enrollment for the  
21 school year, multiplied by the difference between the school  
22 district's transportation cost per pupil for the budget year  
23 and the statewide adjusted transportation cost per pupil for  
24 the budget year.

25     *c.* For purposes of this section:

26         (1) "*Statewide minimum transportation cost per pupil*" means  
27 the lowest transportation cost per pupil among all school  
28 districts in the state.

29         (2) "*Transportation cost per pupil differential*" means the  
30 difference between a school district's transportation cost per  
31 pupil and the statewide minimum transportation cost per pupil  
32 for the same budget year.

33     *d.* A district's transportation cost per pupil shall be  
34 determined by dividing the district's actual cost for all  
35 children transported in all school buses for a school year

1 pursuant to section 285.1, subsection 12, less the amount  
2 received for transporting nonpublic school pupils under section  
3 285.1, by the district's actual enrollment for the school year,  
4 excluding the shared-time enrollment for the school year as  
5 defined in section 257.6.

6     3. *a.* A transportation equity fund is created as a separate  
7 and distinct fund in the state treasury under the control of  
8 the department of management. Moneys in the fund include  
9 revenues credited to the fund, appropriations made to the  
10 fund, and other moneys deposited in the fund. For each fiscal  
11 year beginning on or after July 1, 2016, there is appropriated  
12 all moneys in the fund to the department of management for  
13 purposes of making transportation equity aid payments under  
14 this section, as calculated under subsection 2.

15     *b.* If the balance of the fund exceeds the amount  
16 necessary to make all transportation equity aid payments,  
17 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year,  
18 notwithstanding section 8.33, shall remain in the fund and  
19 shall be available for expenditure for the purposes of this  
20 section in subsequent fiscal years.

21     4. Transportation equity aid payments shall be paid by  
22 the department of education at the same time and in the same  
23 manner as foundation aid is paid under section 257.16, and may  
24 be included in the monthly payment of state aid under section  
25 257.16, subsection 2.

26     5. Transportation equity aid payments received under  
27 this section are miscellaneous income and shall be deposited  
28 in the general fund of the school district. However, the  
29 transportation equity aid amount shall not be included in  
30 district cost. Transportation equity aid under this section  
31 shall not affect the receipt or amount of a budget adjustment  
32 received under section 257.14.

33     Sec. 2. Section 257.31, subsection 17, Code 2016, is amended  
34 by striking the subsection.

35     Sec. 3. Section 321.34, subsection 22, paragraph b, Code

1 2016, is amended to read as follows:

2     **b.** The special school transportation fee for letter-number  
 3 designated education plates is thirty-five dollars. The fee  
 4 for personalized education plates is twenty-five dollars, which  
 5 shall be paid in addition to the special school transportation  
 6 fee of thirty-five dollars. The annual special school  
 7 transportation fee is ten dollars for letter-number designated  
 8 registration plates and is fifteen dollars for personalized  
 9 registration plates which shall be paid in addition to the  
 10 regular annual registration fee. The fees collected by the  
 11 director under [this subsection](#) shall be paid monthly to the  
 12 treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax fund. The  
 13 treasurer of state shall transfer monthly from the statutory  
 14 allocations fund created under section 321.145, subsection  
 15 2, to the ~~school budget review committee in accordance with~~  
 16 [section 257.31, subsection 17](#) transportation equity fund  
 17 created in section 257.16C, the amount of the special school  
 18 transportation fees collected in the previous month for the  
 19 education plates.

20     Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION. Moneys transferred to the school  
 21 budget review committee for the purposes of section 257.31,  
 22 subsection 17, Code 2016, that remain unexpended on June 30,  
 23 2016, shall be transferred to the department of management and  
 24 deposited in the transportation equity fund created in section  
 25 257.16C.

#### 26 EXPLANATION

27             The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
 28             the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29     This bill establishes the transportation equity program  
 30 to provide additional funding for school districts with a  
 31 transportation cost per pupil that exceeds the statewide  
 32 minimum transportation cost per pupil for the same budget year.  
 33 For the budget year beginning July 1, 2016, the department  
 34 of management is required to determine a statewide adjusted  
 35 transportation cost per pupil that is not lower than the

1 statewide minimum transportation cost per pupil. The statewide  
2 adjusted transportation cost per pupil shall be annually  
3 determined, by taking into account amounts appropriated, for  
4 the purpose of providing transportation equity aid for those  
5 school districts with the highest transportation cost per pupil  
6 differential.

7 Each eligible school district shall receive transportation  
8 equity aid in an amount equal to the school district's actual  
9 enrollment for the school year, excluding the shared-time  
10 enrollment for the school year, multiplied by the difference  
11 between the school district's transportation cost per pupil for  
12 the budget year and the statewide adjusted transportation cost  
13 per pupil for the budget year. The bill defines "statewide  
14 minimum transportation cost per pupil" and "transportation cost  
15 per pupil differential". The bill also establishes the method  
16 used to calculate a district's transportation cost per pupil.

17 The bill establishes a transportation equity fund and  
18 annually appropriates all moneys in the fund to the department  
19 of management for purposes of making transportation equity  
20 aid payments. If the balance of the fund exceeds the amount  
21 necessary to make all transportation equity aid payments,  
22 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year  
23 are required to remain in the fund and are available for  
24 expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. The bill also  
25 establishes the timing and procedure for making transportation  
26 equity aid payments.

27 Transportation equity aid payments are miscellaneous income  
28 and shall be deposited in the general fund of the school  
29 district. However, the transportation equity aid amount shall  
30 not be included in district cost. Transportation equity aid  
31 under this Code section shall not affect the receipt or amount  
32 of a budget adjustment received under Code section 257.14.

33 The bill strikes that portion of Code section 257.31 that  
34 authorized the school budget review committee to provide  
35 transportation assistance aid to certain school districts using

1 fees collected for vehicle registration plates containing an  
2 education emblem and provides for the transfer of such fees to  
3 the transportation equity fund created in the bill, instead of  
4 being transferred to the school budget review committee for  
5 transportation assistance aid.

6     The bill provides that any moneys transferred to the  
7 school budget review committee for the purposes of providing  
8 transportation assistance aid that remain unexpended on June  
9 30, 2016, shall be transferred to the department of management  
10 and deposited in the transportation equity fund created in the  
11 bill.